

Georgina Hughes

1/82

**THE
POTTERS
GUILD
OF
BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

EDITOR

The unusual sight in Vancouver of a dignified middle-aged lady calmly crossing Georgia Street on skis turned our thoughts to those for whom this is a way of Winter life. How are you doing out there in Prince George, Kamloops and points North, East and West from here? We should very much like to hear from potters outside of the Lower Mainland and to publish news about your work and activities. We also hope to get a lively column going where hints, ideas and opinions can be exchanged. If you have a technical problem or query somebody somewhere knows the answer; the greatest resource we have is ourselves.

Nothing would please your editors better than mountains of mail tagged "Newsletter"!

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Angela and Linda.

ADVERTISING RATES: for one month: eighth of a page \$6.00, one quarter of a page \$11.00, one half of a page \$21.00, full page \$41.00. 10% discount for 6 month order, 15% discount for one year order. Payments must be made in advance. Prices are for camera-ready artwork.

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Deadline for submissions: The end of the month preceeding the month of publication (i.e. Jan. 31 for the Feb. edition). All submissions to be in writing to Angela Squires, 701 - 1825 Haro St. Vancouver, B.C. V6G 1H4.

Contributors: Anne Fleetham, Angela Squires and of course E.E.
Mailing: Elizabeth Reynolds, Mirian McCarrell, Sylvia Gornall.

MEETING

The next general meeting of the Potters Guild of B.C. will take place at Van Dusen Gardens, 37th & Oak St., Vancouver, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20th. Tea, coffee and home baked treats will be served from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., followed by a short business meeting. Laila Pettersen, Doris Ludwig, John Springer and John Porter of Greenbarn will display their latest works. The guest speaker this month will be Sam Kwan who will discuss and demonstrate his work. Sam, a well-known B.C. Potter was the first prize winner in the functional category at Ceramics '81.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This was a very enjoyable and entertaining event highlighted by Phyllis Argyle's superb display of belly dancing. Many thanks Phyllis. Hiro still insists, rather ungallantly, that his magnificent rosy blush was entirely due to the influence of the noble grape and not the Turkish Delights he experienced under Phyllis's veil! The two films loaned by the Chinese Consulate were mainly concerned with porcelain production in large manufacturing centres. It would be interesting to hear from anyone with information about artist potters in China who are working individually or in small groups. Since getting involved in Guild activities I have become convinced that potters may struggle but they will never starve! The vast array of both solid and liquid refreshment lent further weight to this observation. The winners of the raffle for Harry Davis's pots were as follows: 1st prize, Brian Harton; 2nd, Carol Bullen; 3rd, Gerry Girscher; 4th, Ronda Green. Thankyou to all those who contributed and helped to make this a fun occasion.

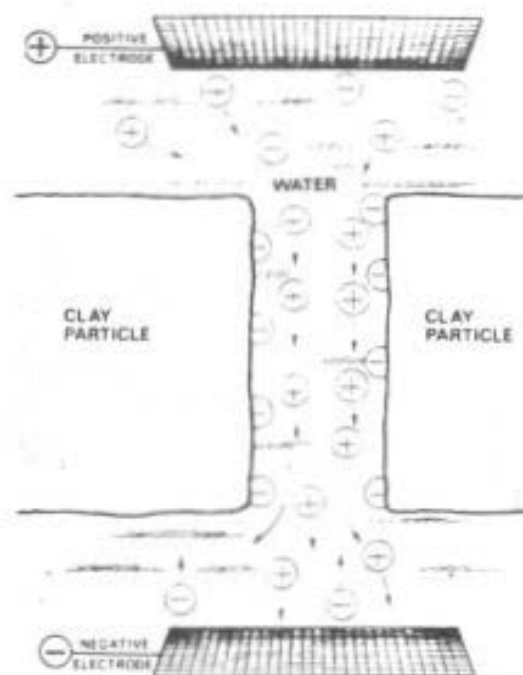
Electro-osmosis wrings water out of clay

From 'POPULAR SCIENCE' magazine

Ceramicist Ron du Bois had a problem: His large clay projects took five to six days to stiffen, and uneven drying sometimes caused cracks. The water in the clay—up to 25 percent of the weight—simply took a long time to evaporate, and it took a lot of gas for the final kiln drying, too. Du Bois took his problem to Dr. Herb Pohl, a physicist and colleague at Oklahoma State University, and together they developed a drying process that not only works for clay, but may have energy-saving applications in other fields, as well.

Pohl and du Bois placed moist clay samples between wire grids and connected a 35-V DC power source to them. When the power was turned on, a pool of water formed under the bottom, negative electrode in two minutes, and the clay became as stiff as leather. Measuring the amount of water from several samples, Pohl calculated that about 100 molecules of water were drawn off for each positive ion passing through the clay. He explains this surprising effect by pointing out that water dissociates, or dissolves, positive ions—potassium, sodium, and calcium—from the clay, while the negative ions remain fixed in the clay matrix. In the electric field, the metallic ions migrate toward the negative electrode and thereby create an osmotic effect: The water in the clay is drawn toward the solution with a higher concentration of free dissociated ions.

Pohl believes that the drying process that he calls electro-osmosis has obvious potential in manufacturing processes that use clay—high-voltage insulators, electrical components, and, of course, pottery and china. But it may also be valuable for products that have a composition similar to clay and that are usually dried by costly heating.



Electric field in wet clay attracts positive ions to negative electrode; water follows concentration of ions. Negative ions remain fixed in clay.

In ceramics, electro-osmosis reduces the cracks and checks that develop in air-drying, and the extraction process will probably also reduce the gas or electricity necessary to bake the clay free of water prior to final kiln firing.

Is it safe? Wet clay has a resistivity of about 1000 ohms/cm, so in typical applications only a few milliamperes are flowing through the clay. Pohl cautions that voltages over 60 V or high-ampere sources are dangerous, but there is little danger in working below these limits. Obviously it's always best to stay clear of the electrodes and clay when any current is on. Pohl says that the process electrolyzes very little water into hydrogen and oxygen—not enough to present a danger.—*Paul Bolon*



Electro-osmosis can pull water up and out of clay. On potter's wheel above, negative grid rests on wet rag over clay. Water is collected at top; base dries first.

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SERENDIPITY

In the present tough economic climate those struggling potters, whose survival skills have included keeping an aging auto chugging along, may find their reluctantly acquired mechanical knowledge can be combined profitably with their true vocation. From Japan comes news that Isuzu Auto Manufacturing in conjunction with Kyoto Ceramics have developed an experimental ceramic engine. The material used is the same as that for the space shuttle heat shield. The engine therefore can withstand temperatures far in excess of those tolerated by metal so requires no cooling system. Finite metal resources and the fact that this engine has a 30% lower fuel consumption than a comparable metal engine could mean that a seemingly bizarre curiosity will provide the horsepower of the future! Georgina Hughes reports however that there is no substance to the rumours that Sam Kwan makes his own sparkplugs and is forming a Ceramechanics Union. Our consultant on things Japanese, Hiro Urakami, commented that not even the prospect of making his own car would induce him to take driving lessons!

POTTY POTTY BANG BANG ?



Our intrepid reporter Ethel Earthworm is squirming to write articles about potters. Please let us know who you would like to hear about and E.E. will slither over and wrest their secrets from them if possible, and they agree to be interviewed!

B.C. FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

B.C. artists and craftspeople are invited to participate in the FIRST BRITISH COLUMBIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, to take place in Kamloops, B.C. May 31 to June 5, 1982.

Artists are encouraged to enter in the following categories: Painting (all media), Photography, Ceramics and Glasswork, Drawing and Prints, Portable Sculpture, Fabric and Fibre Arts, and Miscellaneous. Terms of entry, details of registration and further information about this exciting first-ever Arts Festival, sponsored by the British Columbia Government, may be obtained from the Community Arts Council of Vancouver, 315 West Cordova Street.

The Visual Arts component of the Arts Festival is the responsibility of the Assembly of British Columbia Arts Councils. Assembly director for the Vancouver area is Ralph Flitton of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver, 683-4358. For the Lower Mainland area (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, New Westminster, Richmond, North and West Vancouver), the contact person is Ella Parkinson of the North Van Arts Council, 988-6844.

Artists are requested to indicate their INTENTION TO SUBMIT works for selection, by calling either of the above numbers, by January 25th, 1982. Selection of works will take place in March, 1982. Time and place will be announced at a later date.